



Who Is Your Neighbor?

There are many questions this week. Take the time to work through most of them and allow people to answer. Silence is okay to allow people to think, reflect and answer. It is okay to let them know that you are going to wait on them to answer too.

Read Luke 10:25-37

²⁵ And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" ²⁷ And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸ And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live." ²⁹ But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰ Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴ He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" ³⁷ He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

Ask, Have you ever asked the right question with the wrong motivation? What is usually the intended purpose for doing that?

In your preparation, read and be familiar with Leviticus 19:9-18 and Deuteronomy 6:4-6 as more background information.

What is the benefit of answering a good question with another question? Notice the question that Jesus used is a question that the lawyer knew the answer to. And it was scripture. That is one of the beauties of knowing scripture when you are in conversation with people.

Are you neighborly? Who is a neighbor that you have trouble accepting and getting along with? (sort of like an "extra grace required" neighbor)

Who are you a neighbor too that sees you as an "extra grace required" neighbor? (Remember that gate swings both ways.)

How do you feel about anyone/everyone being your neighbor when it comes to living faithfully? Especially when it requires quite a bit to take care of them? Do you care for them or just pass by?

Who is the last person that you showed genuine mercy? Who last showed you genuine mercy? Be thankful and grateful for the mercy extended to you.

Read 10:38-42

³⁸ Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. ³⁹ And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, ⁴² but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

Are you more like Martha or Mary?

How hard is it for you to not be busy? Has service replaced your faithfulness?

How hard is it for you to not judge someone who is not like you?

How hard is it for you to serve? Just sitting and soaking is not faithful as well.

Encourage your group this week -

This week, be intentional about choosing to either get involved or slow down (whichever is not your natural default.)

Take time to share prayer requests and encourage your group to pray for one another this week.